

What is claimed is:

1. A circular fluorescent lamp comprising:

a light-transmitting circular tube, filled with a discharge gas including mercury and a rare gas, having a tube outer diameter between about 14mm and 18mm;

a phosphor layer coated on the inner surface of the light-transmitting circular tube;

a stem sealing each end of the light-transmitting circular tube air-tightly;

a filament at each end of the light-transmitting circular tube;

a pair of conductive wires held in each stem, one of the ends of each pair being connected to one of the filaments, and the other of the ends of each pair extending outwardly from the circular tube;

a lamp base, arranged between the ends of the light-transmitting circular tube so as to rotate slightly around the center axis of the circular tube, including conductive pins, which are connected to the conductive wires; and

an insulator arranged between the conductive wires of at least one pair to provide insulation therebetween.

2. A circular fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein, the length of one stem is longer than that of the other stem.

3. A circular fluorescent lamp according to claim 2, wherein the length of one stem is between about 20mm and 40mm, and the length of the other stem is between about 10mm and 30mm.

4. A circular fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein an axes of the filament

and the conductive pins are arranged perpendicularly to each other.

5. A circular fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein the insulator is made of silicone rubber and adheres to the tip of the sealing portion and between the conductive wires.

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6. A circular fluorescent lamp according to claim 5, wherein the silicone rubber has a hardness of 40 or less measured by Japanese Industrial Standard K 6301 (as determined by testing method for a vulcanization rubber JIS K6301).

7. A circular fluorescent lamp according to claim 5, wherein the silicone rubber is colored.

8. A circular fluorescent lamp according to claim 5, wherein the silicone rubber projects from the tip of the sealing portion of the light-transmitting circular tube.

9. A lighting fixture comprising:  
a circular fluorescent lamp comprising:  
a light-transmitting circular tube, filled with a discharge gas including mercury and a rare gas, having a tube outer diameter between about 14mm and 18mm,  
a phosphor layer coated on the inner surface of the light-transmitting circular tube,  
a stem, sealing each end of the light-transmitting circular tube air-tightly,  
a filament at each end of the light-transmitting circular tube,  
a pair of conductive wires held in each stem, one of the ends of each pair being connected to one of the filaments, and the other of the ends of each pair extending outwardly from the circular tube,

